

Ralf Kürten, et al
Serial No.: 10/670,759
Amdt. dated April 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, claims 13-25 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent Number 6,019,402 to Arabia, Jr. et al (Arabia) on the grounds stated in the Office Action.

The following argument is presented to overcome the foregoing ground of rejection, and to show the presence of patentable subject matter in the claims.

Claim 13 is amended to clarify the distinction between operation of the present lock and operation of the Arabia lock. Accordingly, claim 13 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

The amendment to claim 13 provides further description between the interaction of the release member (24) and the worm helix (22) to show how, upon engagement of the helix with the release member, the latter drives the helix along its shaft (15) to drive the catch (9) out of its locking engagement with the latch (6). This is described in the present specification on pages 10-11 and in present Figs. 3 and 8. Rotation of the latch into its open position lifts the release member away from the worm, so that the worm can slide back, under force of a spring, along the shaft (15) to the start position. The lock mechanism, as set forth in the foregoing amended description of claim 13, differs significantly from that presented in the cited art. Accordingly, this amendment and argument are believed to overcome the


rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 based on the teachings of Arabia, thereby to secure allowable subject matter in claim 13 and in its dependent claims. Claim 15 is amended to conform to the amendment of claim 13.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.


Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted
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by: 
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the Amendment Upon Final Rejection is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent Office on April 26, 2005.


Signed by Martin A. Farber

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